



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Rhode Island Department of Housing
1 Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor
Providence, RI 02908

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chair
House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 6163, H 6176, H 6177, H 6178, H 6179, H 6180, H 6181, H 6182, H 6183, H 6184, H 6185, H 6213, H 6214, H 6215, H 6363,

Dear Chairman Casey:

The Department of Housing respectfully writes in opposition to H 6163, H 6176, H 6177, H 6178, H 6179, H 6180, H 6181, H 6182, H 6183, H 6184, H 6185, H 6213, H 6214, H 6215, and H 6363.

At the core of the State's housing challenge is an inadequate supply of housing caused by more than a decade of extraordinarily low rates of homebuilding. The Department aims to address this problem by increasing housing development across the state and for all Rhode Islanders. We released *Housing 2030*, Rhode Island's State Housing Plan, for which the public comment period recently closed. This plan would provide a roadmap for the work ahead needed to improve housing development in Rhode Island. It is essential for all communities in our State to come together to set concrete housing-related goals and align on strategies for making meaningful progress towards achieving these goals. Additionally, we remain grateful for the General Assembly's continued efforts to address our housing challenges through significant reforms aimed towards reducing barriers and streamlining housing development.

This package of bills would create carve outs for the Town of Tiverton. While we understand each community faces very real and specific challenges, exempting towns from statewide requirements would increase the challenges we already face. The Department is ready to support and assist Tiverton and all municipalities as they seek to adjust to new zoning requirements and pursue responsible growth.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments. The Department remains open to working with all communities and collaborating on policies and the implementation of *Housing 2030*.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Goddard
Secretary of Housing

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
The Honorable John G. Edwards
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy